

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-29 are pending. Claims 28 and 29 are newly added. Claims 14 and 27 are amended. Claims 23-26 are withdrawn. Support for the amendments to Claims 14 and 27 can be found in Figs. 1e, 3, and 4, for example. Support for newly added Claims 28 and 29 can be found in Figs. 3 and 4, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 14-16, 18-20, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich et al. (DE 196 33 706, herein “Gressenich”) in view of Vilato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,103, herein “Vilato”) or Gille et al. (U.S. Patent 6,103,338, herein “Gille”). Claims 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich, Vilato or Gille, and Goetz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,189, herein “Goetz”) or Hoffmann (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,338, herein “Hoffmann”). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich, Vilato or Gille, and Medwick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,849,328, herein “Medwick”).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 14-16, 18-20, and 27 as obvious over Gressenich in view of Vilato or Gille, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 14 recites, in part:

a first surface provided with pegs ...  
a second surface opposite the first surface ...  
the boss extends from a first edge of the glass-ceramic plate to a second edge of the glass-ceramic plate, and  
the boss is a portion of the glass-ceramic plate with a first thickness, and the first thickness is greater than a second thickness of the glass-ceramic plate measured at a portion of the glass-ceramic plate adjacent the boss.

Accordingly, a boss extends from a first edge of the glass-ceramic plate to a second edge of the glass-ceramic plate. The boss is a portion of the glass-ceramic plate with a thickness greater than a thickness of the glass-ceramic plate in an area adjacent the boss.

One benefit of the above-noted feature is that it is simpler to manufacture the glass-ceramic plate with a roller as shown in Figs. 2 and 2a. A roller having the appropriate profile may be used to roll along the glass-ceramic plate before the glass-ceramic plate is cut into individual plates.

In contrast, Gressenich fails to teach or suggest a boss of any kind, and the outstanding Office Action relies on one of Vilato and Gille for the above-noted feature.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the relief (6) described in Vilato does not extend from a first edge of the plate (1) described in Vilato to a second edge. Rather, the relief (6) stops short of the edge of the plate (1). Additionally, in the embodiment shown in Fig. 4, the relief (6) stops short of the edge of the plate (1), and represents a bent section of the plate (1) having the same thickness, or perhaps a smaller thickness than the plate (1). Applicants also respectfully note that the rim (12) does not correlate to a raised boss as recited in amended independent Claim 14.

Gille fails to remedy the deficiencies of Gressenich. As shown in Figs. 5, 6, 8, and 9, the bead edge (17, 20) is formed of a **bent** section of the plate (11). The bead edge (17, 20) does not have a greater thickness than a portion of the plate (11) adjacent to it. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination Gressenich and Vilato would include all of the features of either of amended independent Claim 14 and 27, and Claims 14-22 and 27-29 patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Gressenich and Gille for at least the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination of Gressenich, Vilato, and Gille would include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 14.

Amended independent Claim 27 recites substantially similar features to those discussed above regarding amended independent Claim 14 and patentably distinguishes over

any proper combination of Gressenich, Vilato, and Gille for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 14 does.

Claims 15-22 and 28 each depend from amended independent Claim 14 and patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Gressenich, Vilato, and Gille for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 14 does.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 17 and 22 as obvious over Gressenich in view of Vilato or Gille and Goetz or Hoffmann, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Neither of Goetz and Hoffmann remedies the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich, Vilato, and Gille. Rather, the outstanding Office Action relies on Goetz and Hoffmann for the feature of display modules, and Goetz and Hoffmann do not teach or suggest a boss, much less that a boss is a portion of the plate with a thickness greater than a portion of the plate adjacent the boss or that the boss extends from a first edge of a glass-ceramic plate to a second edge. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 14 and 27 and Claims 17 and 22 depending from amended independent Claim 14 patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Gressenich, Vilato, Gille, Goetz, and Hoffmann for at least the reasons discussed above.

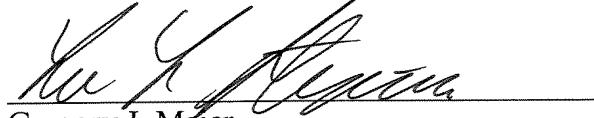
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claim 21 as obvious over Gressenich, Vilato or Gille, and Medwick, Applicants respectfully submit that Medwick fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich, Vilato, and Gille. The outstanding Office Action relies on Medwick for the feature of a peelable transparent protective sheet. Medwick does not teach or suggest a boss as recited in amended independent Claim 14.

Newly added Claims 28 and 29 each depend from one of amended independent Claims 14 and 27 and patentably distinguish over any proper combination of the cited references for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claims 14 and 27 do.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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